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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/388,813	09/01/1999	WALDEMAR STEPHAN	21222	4469

535 7590 02/08/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VINH P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

NY

Office Action Summary	Application N .		Applicant(s)	
	09/388,813		STEPHAN, WALDEMAR	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	VINH P NGUYEN		2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 13-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whipple, III (Pat # 5,319,304)

As to claims 13-14, 16, 18-19, Whipple III discloses an apparatus for monitoring a load as shown in figure 11 having a motor (75) driving a pump (70), control circuit (70) and a device (10) for monitoring machine load as shown in figure 1. As shown in figure # 1, the device for monitoring machine load has voltage sensor (400), therefore it would have been well known for one of ordinary skill in the art to measure a voltage drop across a portion of a conductor or wire segment (conductor positioned between the load and the power source). Furthermore, with a known voltage drop, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to calculate a current drawn from that voltage drop by using Ohm's Law ($V=I \cdot R$ where R is a definite resistance). As to claims 15, 17 and 22, it appears that the current drawn could be detected or computed by a current sensor (200) and this current sensor would be qualified as "a computing unit". As to claim 20, it appears that the portion of the conductor is a bridge between a plug contact of the

power line and a printed circuit board carrying the control circuit.. As to claim 21, the value of the resistance between 1 and 5mohms would have been an obvious design choice since this resistance value depends on the type and the length of the conductor. As to claim 22, it appears that the current drawn could be detected or computed by a current sensor (200) of the load measuring device (10) and this current sensor (200) would be qualified as “ a processor”. Furthermore, since the load measuring device (10) connected to the controller (2010), it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to consider that the processor (200) of the load measuring device (10) as a part of the motor control circuit.

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/30/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.


In Applicant's remark, Applicant indicates that the Whippe does not measure the current drawn by a motor across “a separate resistance element”. Examiner disagrees with Applicant about this issue. First of all, Examiner is unclear what “a separate resistance element” is referred to in Whippe III (Pat # 5,319,304). Secondly, the conductor positioned between the load and the power source is considered as a wire segment. Therefore, the limitations of the instant claims have been met by Whippe III.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **VINH P. NGUYEN** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4914.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.


VINH P. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2829
02/07/2002